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FM USDEL SECRETARY//DUBLIN//

TO RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHLOB/AMCONSUL BELFAST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARTO 000006

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2019

TAGS: PREL PGOV ECON EUN EI

SUBJECT: SECRETARY AND IRISH FM MEETING

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Classified By: Deputy Executive Virginia Bennett;  
reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (U) October 11, 2009, Dublin, Ireland

¶2. (U) Participants

United States  
The Secretary  
Ambassador Daniel Rooney  
A/S Philip Gordon  
NSC Elisabeth Sherwood-Randall  
DCOS Jake Sullivan  
Spokesman Ian Kelly  
Lt. Gen. Paul Selva

Ireland  
Foreign Minister Michael Martin  
David Cooney, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Michael Collins, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States  
David Donoghue, Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Pat Hennessy, Director General, Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Sighle Doherty, Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs

¶3. (C) SUMMARY: Secretary Clinton discussed a wide range of issues, including Afghanistan, U.S. visa policy, and Irish acceptance of Guantanamo detainees in an October 11 meeting with Ireland's Foreign Minister Michael Martin. END SUMMARY.

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AFGHANISTAN: IRISH WANT TO HELP  
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¶4. (C) Secretary Clinton highlighted the Administration's Afghanistan review. Minister Martin offered Ireland's help in promoting efforts in Afghanistan and explained that Ireland has recently hosted an Afghan parliamentary delegation at the reconciliation center at Glencree. Ireland would be delighted to host similar efforts in the future.

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VISAS AND IMMIGRATION  
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¶5. (C) Secretary Clinton noted some form of an amnesty program for those illegally in the United States would be part of comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Minister Martin confirmed that according to Irish diaspora lobby groups there are currently 50,000

undocumented Irish in the United States. There did not appear to be a new wave of illegal immigration to the United States; Irish policy was committed to preventing a new wave of illegal immigration by using certain visa programs. He also understood that efforts in this regard would likely be in the context of comprehensive immigration reform rather than a bi-lateral agreement. Martin praised the recent 12 month interim work and travel program implemented in January 2008 by Ireland

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and the United States, and suggested it be reviewed after one year. He also suggested that Ireland be added to the E-3 visa program (currently available only to Australians) with a reciprocal program for Americans to work in Ireland.

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TAX CODE REFORM: IRELAND NOT A TAX HAVEN  
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¶16. (C) Minister Martin highlighted concern that possible U.S. tax code reform could have a punitive effect on U.S. companies based in Ireland, costing jobs. Ireland is a low tax country, with a corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent for both Irish and foreign companies, not subject to change by the EU, but is not a tax haven, Martin stressed. U.S. investment in Ireland had done much more than create direct jobs; it had resulted in the development of an enterprise culture in Ireland, he added.

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DONOR COORDINATION  
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¶17. (C) Turning to donor coordination and food security policy, Secretary Clinton stressed an integrated whole-government approach to maximize effects and told Martin that previous restrictions on funding to certain organizations had been lifted, resulting in greater flexibility and effectiveness. There have been great successes in certain areas such as PEPFAR. However, in order to make progress against HIV/AIDS, greater efforts are needed to rationalize donor approaches -- both in the U.S. government and in the wider donor community -- in order to avoid duplication and maximize outputs. Minister Martin concurred and suggested that Ireland and the U.S. co-host an event at a future UN Development Goals Summit.

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KIDNAPPED AID WORKER IN DARFUR  
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¶18. (C) Minister Martin thanked the U.S. for supporting efforts to recover Irish aid worker Sharon Commins who was kidnapped by bandits in Darfur on July 3rd. According to Martin, U.S. interlocutors in Sudan were the most knowledgeable about the situation, and Khartoum's apparent willingness but inability to secure the kidnapped aid worker's release may show that Khartoum is no longer in control of tribal groups in Darfur.

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FORMER GUANTANAMO DETAINEES SETTLING IN IRELAND  
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¶19. (C) Secretary Clinton praised the Irish acceptance of two former Guantanamo detainees, and noted that Irish policy of allowing family members to join them in Ireland would likely have the positive effect of easing the transition into Irish society.

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information India could, and it was up to Pakistan to take it to its "logical conclusion."

¶11. (C) Krishna said he would meet September 27 with Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi. He said that he would again offer Indian assistance, because "terror knows no boundaries." He repeated PM Singh's statement that India is willing to go more than half way in the "hope to take up from where we left" with respect to the composite dialogue. The Secretary said that we consider all Pakistan-based terror groups a threat to regional and international security. She recounted that the United States had been working with Pakistan to close down terrorist operations. While we had seen some good developments, she observed, we expect Pakistan to do more. She said the Indian offer of cooperation and assistance to Pakistan was an important gesture to make clear that the two countries had a common cause.

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AFGHANISTAN  
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¶12. (C) Krishna said India had been providing assistance at the invitation of Afghanistan. He averred that India had no hidden agenda or vested interest in the country and was only there to help rebuild infrastructure. He queried why some countries would think otherwise. The Secretary expressed appreciation with India's assistance in Afghanistan and said the best way to dispel allegations about India's possible role in Baluchistan would be to address them directly with Qureshi. Krishna said he would do so and expressed the hope that it could be a "path-breaking" meeting.

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SRI LANKA  
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¶13. (C) The Secretary sought Indian assistance to persuade the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) to resettle the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka. Krishna said India had had considerable interactions with the GSL. While describing the IDP situation as a humanitarian concern, he did not think the GSL could meet the 180-day timeline to relocate the IDPs because the monsoon would start soon. Moreover, demining the areas to give people the confidence to return to their homes would take time.

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IRAN  
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¶14. (C) Drawing his attention to the President's statement earlier in the day regarding the disclosure of a new Iranian nuclear facility, the Secretary told Krishna that the United States still planned to attend the October 1 meeting with Iran. She also welcomed Russia's strong statement on the matter.

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